

DC

17 DEC 1968

1093

Chile

BRIEFING MEMO FOR

MR. [REDACTED]

OF [REDACTED]

1. a) The Chilean congressional elections scheduled to occur on 2 March 1969 will involve all 150 seats in the lower chamber and 30 of the 30 Senate seats. This election is expected to have an important bearing on the 1970 presidential election when a Communist-supported popular front candidate may be a strong contender.

b) The purpose of the election program is to provide support to select moderate candidates of the three non-Marxist parties (Christian Democratic, Radical, and National) for whom additional covert support might make the difference between election and defeat; also, attempts are made to create a psychological climate favorable to moderate elements.

2. To date the field election team, composed of Embassy and CIA personnel under Ambassador Korry's direction, has identified 10 certain and five probable contests in which support will be given and has created a propaganda mechanism to influence the local climate. At this time [REDACTED] [REDACTED] the total \$350,000 in approved funds) has been committed for these 15 contests, for supplementary propaganda and related activities, and for support to a dissident Socialist party [REDACTED]